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## PROCEEDINGS AND PAPERS.

GENERAL MEETING, held in the Assembly Rooms, Kilkenny, on  
Wednesday, May 6th, 1857,

THE VERY REV. THE DEAN OF LEIGHLIN in the Chair.

The following new Members were elected :—

The Very Rev. the Dean of Cashel: proposed by William Owen, Esq., J. P.

The Rev. Thomas Henry, A. B., Kenagh, county of Longford; and the Rev. William Tomlinson, A. M., Granard: proposed by the Very Rev. the Dean of Leighlin.

Richard Donovan, Esq., J. P., Ballymore, Camolin, Ferns; Edward J. Cotton, Esq., Newpark Cottage, Kilkenny; and the Rev. William Horgan, R. C. C., Killarney: proposed by the Rev. James Graves.

William Forster, Esq., D. L., Ballymore, Analore, Clones; the Rev. John Baillie, Clonaleenan, Dundalk; the Rev. Cuthbert T. Hackett, Essexford, Corcreaghy, Dundalk; William Walpole, Esq., Richmond Terrace, Wexford; and Mark Bloxham, Esq., Sub-Inspector of Constabulary, Castleblaney: proposed by the Rev. George H. Reade.

Robert Wilson, Esq., Abbey Works, Paisley: proposed by Mrs. Hitchcock.

The Chairman, in proposing the Members obtained by him, remarked that he conceived the best way to serve the Society would be by each Member exerting himself to increase the number of Subscribers.

The following presentations were received, and thanks ordered to be given to the donors :—

By the Author, John Maclean, Esq., F. S. A., &c.: “The Life and Times of Sir Peter Carew.”

By the Publisher : "The Gentleman's Magazine" for April and May, 1857.

By the Cambrian Archæological Association : "Archæologia Cambrensis," Third Series, No. 10.

By the Suffolk Institute of Archæology, Statistics, and Natural History : their "Proceedings," Vol. II. No. 6.

By the Author (anonymous) : "The Abbey of Saint Alban, &c., intended chiefly for the use of Visitors," Second Edition.

By the Publisher : "The Builder," Nos. 736 to 742, inclusive.

By the Author, the Rev. Robert W. Eyton, M. A. : "The Houses of Fitz Alan and Stuart : their Origin and Early History."

By the Clonmel Mechanics' Institute : their "Report," and "Supplement to the Catalogue of Books," 1857.

The Very Rev. the Dean of Ossory exhibited a silver penny of Henry III., found in a chink of the wall near the north side-aisle door of the cathedral of St. Canice. It is not at all improbable that this coin may have been lost by some of the artificers engaged in the construction of the Cathedral.

The Secretary, when laying before the Chairman "The Life and Times of Sir Peter Carew," recently published by John Maclean, Esq., F. S. A., and a Member of this Society, observed that this work, interesting to all from the light it throws on the period to which it belongs—the stirring time of Elizabeth's reign—especially recommends itself to Kilkenny folk, as Sir Peter's ancestral claim to the barony of Idrone, county of Carlow, successfully prosecuted both in the field and at the council-board, brought him into deadly feud with the junior branches of the Ormonde family, headed by Sir Edmond Butler, brother to the then Earl; and Kilkenny was in consequence made the theatre of the civil commotion popularly known as "the Butlers' wars."

Captain Edward Hoare, North Cork Rifles, sent the following communication, and has also kindly presented to the Society the woodcut by which it is illustrated :—

"A lithograph of a very interesting armlet of gold, discovered in the county of Waterford, and now in the collection of Sir Thomas Tobin of Ballincollig, having been inserted in a late Number of this Journal (vol. i., new series, p. 254), I send, in consequence thereof, an engraving, the size of the original, of a penannular ring of gold, of the very finest and purest quality, which belongs to my collection, and a woodcut of which I have much pleasure in presenting for illustration in the Society's new Journal.



"It will be seen, on reference to the engravings, that the ornamentation on both relics is of the very same pattern and form, and it may thereby safely be concluded that both these rings are productions of the same period and age ; I am not aware in what particular locality my ring was

discovered. I purchased it during the month of July, 1844, from a watch-maker in the city of Cork, who, a few days previously, had bought it from a country labourer, but regarding which he had obtained no information; I think, however, we cannot be far astray, under these circumstances, in supposing it to have been discovered somewhere within the limits of the extensive county of Cork. It weighs 5 dwts. 3 grains. The knobs or globules round the ring are eleven in number; the intermediate ornaments of triplets, in rows between the globules, ten in number. This ring has been evidently cast in a length of gold, and afterwards bent round in the form of a ring, and joined together, as may be perceived in the engraving, at the penannular ends, with a kind of solder or hard cement. I have always considered and termed this ring a kind of connecting and intermediate point between the penannular ring and the perfect ring; and the discovery of the armlet of gold already alluded to, which is certainly of a late period, as proved by its hooked ends for connexion, and which also partakes certainly of a great similarity to Roman armlets, strengthens me much in my suppositions regarding the use and the age of my ring. That both may have been used as money, or as a representative and media of exchange, is possible, nay probable, but, if so, it must have been at a very late period indeed, when the circulating medium was assuming a more than the double purpose, and partaking, as it certainly did latterly and afterwards, more of the character of ornament than use."

The Rev. J. O'Hanlon, R.C.C., sent a further instalment of his valuable communications respecting the materials for country history existing in the Irish Ordnance Survey Office. The present letter was devoted to the county of Carlow, and showed how much had been collected for the illustration of the history and antiquities of that district by the staff of antiquaries engaged on the Survey. Mr. O'Hanlon, as will be perceived, concluded his paper with some just and forcible observations on the desirableness of competent artists being employed by Government to delineate the existing monuments and antiquities of the country, even though they might not be at present published:—

The following are the documentary matters connected with the county of Carlow, as found on the Index thereto, in the Irish Ordnance Survey Office:—I. Names from Down Survey (see Leinster, vol. i.). II. Extracts, one volume; Rough Index of Places to Irish part, not arranged. III. Letters, one volume. IV. Name Books, 58. V. Parish and Barony Names, one volume. VI. Memorandums, one volume. VII. County Index to Maps, one volume. I. The matter referring to the county of Carlow, contained in vol. i. of the Down Survey of Leinster, is found within pages 1 to 63. Page 1 comprises an Index of double columns, referring to the succeeding pages. Alternate pages are blank, and those which are written upon contain, for the most part, triple columns of names of townlands and parishes, under the heading of the respective baronies in which they are situated, with reference to map of the 'countie of Catherlogh.' The Leinster vol. i., already referred to in previous Numbers, is a folio. II. The Extracts are contained in a thin quarto volume of 136 numbered pages, with 74 pages of a Supplement, part of which only is numbered.

These several pages are preceded by eight unnumbered pages of an Index to the county of Carlow Extracts. These excerpts are from the 'Annals of the Four Masters,' Irish and English; Extract of a letter from Mr. O'Donovan dated Clifden, June 14, 1839, and forwarded to Mr. O'Conor for his information, from the Ordnance Survey Office; from Harris' 'Ware,' regarding 'Bishops of Leighlin;' from 'Septima Vita S. Patricii,' pars 3, cap. xix., 'Tr. Th.,' p. 152, col. *a.*; from Archdall's 'Monasticon;' from Lanigan's 'Ecclesiastical History of Ireland;' from O'Flaherty's 'Ogygia;' from the 'Irish Calendar' (Irish character); from Gough's 'Camden's Britannia,' and additions to Gough; MS. account of Royal Oak; from Dr. O'Conor's Latin translation of 'Annals of Four Masters;' from MS. T. C. D., H. 2, 16, p. 754 (Irish characters); from MS. T. C. D., H. 4, 4 (Genealogy in Irish character); from 'Life of St. Maadhoge,' R. I. A., p. 279, col. *a.*, and p. 180, col. *a.* (Irish character); from O'Huidhrin's 'Topographical Poem' (Irish character); from 'Book of Ballymote,' fol. 77, p. *b.* col. *b.* (Irish character, and all the foregoing extracts in the like writing, transcribed by Eugene Curry, whose signature is postfixed); from 'Liber Regalis Visitationis' on 'Ecclesia Cathedralis Dicta Sancto Lazarino Diocesis Leighlinensis;' and a few pages of disconnected notes. The Supplement contains twenty closely written pages of the 'Vita Sci Molyng Epi & Confessoris,' taken from the MS. in Marsh's Library, classed V. 3, 1, 4, folio 70. This Life is in contracted Latin, but in the modern Roman character. In the latter respect, it differs from the original, which I have frequently examined in Marsh's Library, and to most readers its meaning can be more easily discovered than when traced through the vellum pages of the ancient MS. However, the remaining unnumbered pages of the Supplement remove all difficulties from the mere English reader, as we there find an English translation of the foregoing life. Yet I must remark, that this English translation is partially defective, both at its commencement and towards its conclusion. There are no blank pages amongst those numbered in the Extracts, and all the written pages are for the most part closely transcribed. I shall be more particular in giving a detail of the matters contained in the Extracts on subsequent occasions; as they are indispensable to the future compilers of county histories, either for the purpose of being substantially embodied in such a class of works, or at least, as serving the objects of historical and antiquarian illustration. And, even although Carlow has already found a local historian, in common with a few of the other Irish counties, yet, it must be observed with deep regret by all enlightened and patriotic Irishmen, that nothing in the line of a county history has yet come to light that could at all compare with what might be expected from the disentanglement and well-digested arrangement of the Irish Ordnance Survey Office Records, with a view to their publication. There is a rough Index of Places to the Irish part of the Extracts contained in eight loose foolscap folio leaves, only written on one side, which is that paged. We have the localities written in the English and Irish characters, with paged references. III. The county of Carlow Letters are comprised in one thick quarto volume of 485 pages. They are not yet indexed. The first of these letters was written by Thomas O'Conor, and is dated Carlow, June 7, 1839, and the last of them by the same writer is dated Carlow, July 7, 1839.

He wrote eighteen letters from Carlow, six from Leighlin Bridge, one letter from Bagnalstown, and one from Borris Idrone. Patrick O'Keefe wrote all his letters from Tullow, whence they are dated—the first July 5; the last, August 10, 1839. Eugene Curry wrote three letters, the first of which is dated Tulach O'Feidhlim, August 8, 1839; the second is dated Tullow, August 9, 1839; and the last, Tulach O'Felme, August 10, 1839. Thus there were twenty-six letters written by Mr. O'Connor; seven by Mr. O'Keefe, and three by Mr. Curry. It must, however, be observed, that the letters of the latter writer extend to a great length to compensate for their scarcity of number, and these letters of Mr. Curry are particularly valuable. All these gentlemen have interspersed their letters with various and exceedingly curious rough tracings of old crosses, windows, doorways, &c., of old buildings. There are also ground plans and sectional drawings. All these letters contain Extracts from Ryan's 'History of Carlow,' 'Anthologia Hibernia,' &c., which are bound into the volume, to illustrate the local researches of the antiquaries. It may be observed, that such practice is only a part and parcel of the principle on which all the Letter volumes are compiled; whatever MSS. the local investigators did not avail themselves of at the time of writing, were preserved, and afterwards bound up into the volumes of Extracts. There is a well-executed map of 'Vdrone Irlandiæ in Caterlag Baronia,' drawn on tracing-paper, with a more modern map of the county of Carlow, under its divisions of Baronies and Parishes, towards the end of the volume of Letters. An Index to the dates and writers of the Letters is found in the commencement of the volume, on two pages. IV. The Name Books are 58 in number, and have been described in former pages of this Journal. V. The Parish and Barony Names are contained in a thin quarto volume of 107 written pages. The first page contains a list of authorities for the spelling of the names, taken from maps and works published at various dates, up to the year 1839. There are thirty different authorities to which numerical reference is made in the succeeding pages. A Parish Index follows on one page of double columns. Under the headings of Received Name, Orthography, Authorities, Situation, and Remarks, will be found corresponding insertions. Dr. O'Donovan usually inserts the old Irish name and English meaning, in the Irish and English character, on the head of the column, 'Orthography;' thus, for the first-named parish, Agha, we find as explanation, *ácaó arglar*, 'field of green tillage.' VI. The volume entitled 'Memorandums' is a thin quarto, containing 93 variously written pages of matter, which are preceded by an Index to Memorandums on two pages, double columns, and an Index to Extracts on one page, double columns. To give an idea of the contents of this volume, I will transcribe a few extracts, taken at random:—'To Henry James, Esq., Lieutenant, Royal Engineers.—Burton Hall, March 23, 1840.—Sir,—This other half of the townland of Ballynakill is in the county of Kildare, as far as I can learn, but where the bounds are, no one knows. Before this house was built, there was an old castle on its site, and it was called the Castle of Ballynakill, and the grounds around it were under the general name of Ballynakill. Perhaps it would be as well now to engrave it as "Burton Hall Demesne." I am your obedient Servant, W. F. Burton,'—p. 50. 'Fishogue River, between Queen's County and Carlow. How ought this name be

engraved?" To Mr. O'Donovan. 'Fuirpeóg. Fushoge River.'—J. O'D.—p. 93. There are many traces and engraved fragments pasted into this volume. VII. The pages of the County Index to Maps are 68 in number, as I find by counting them, for they are not marked. Like the Name Books, which were drawn up for the use of the antiquaries, this book and similar books are compiled on a uniform plan, for the use of the clerks and engravers in the Irish Ordnance Survey Office: whilst the former, in size and shape, are like small block receipt-books, the latter are in folio form. There are no memoir papers nor sketches of antiquities for the county of Carlow. It is much to be regretted that, even at the present time, some effort would not be made by the Government to employ artists, for the purpose of obtaining correct drawings of all the existing remains of antiquities in the several counties of Ireland. In the instances where artists were employed in connexion with the Ordnance Survey for certain counties, it must also be observed, that the collections of portfolio sketches that have been made are exceedingly meagre, except in a few particular cases. This is a matter that should be attended to as soon as possible; because, as time lapses, the number of our national monuments may be expected gradually to diminish, or at least to suffer more or less from injury or neglect. The subjects required for the illustration of the Parish Memoirs and County Histories, by the adoption of this plan, would be secured for valuable and ulterior purposes, even although the publication of the works in question should necessarily admit of some delay."

The following Papers were submitted to the Society.

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OCHAM READINGS ; WITH AN ACCOUNT OF AN OCHAM  
MONUMENT RECENTLY DISCOVERED IN THE RUINS OF  
THE CHURCH OF KILRUSH, NEAR DUNGARVAN, IN THE  
COUNTY OF WATERFORD.<sup>1</sup>

BY W. WILLIAMS, DUNGARVAN.

IN the month of October last my attention was first called to the subject of Ocham literature on reading Mr. Edward Fitzgerald's valuable paper on the discovery of the Ardmore monuments. The following week I sent him interpretations of the inscriptions; but that of the "Oratory" stone was necessarily imperfect—a few scores more having been subsequently added to the two lines on the face, and a third line discovered on the back of the stone.

Having, as I considered at the time, given a fair reading of the legends, I paid a visit to the ruins of the very ancient little church

<sup>1</sup> This paper was read at the March Meeting of the Society. The orthography of the

term "Ocham" is printed as given by the writer.—Eds.